

REMARKS

Applicants have received and carefully reviewed the Final Office Action of the Examiner mailed September 26, 2008 wherein claims 1-25 remain pending. With this response, Claims 1, 10-11 and 14 have been cancelled. The cancellation of claim 14 resolves the Examiner's objection thereto. Previously withdrawn claims 17-23 have also been cancelled. The remaining claims have been amended to depend from allowed independent claim 25. No new matter has been added, and moreover no new issues have been raised. Thus, entry of this After-Final Amendment is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-8, 10-12, 15-16 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bartels (US 5,927,047). As noted above, the claims have been amended to depend from allowed independent claim 25, thereby rendering the rejection moot. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Bartels (US 5,927,047) in view of Langemaat (US 6,604,345). With the amendment to claim 12, claim 13 ultimately depends from claim 25, which has been indicated as being allowed. Thus, the rejection is rendered moot. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

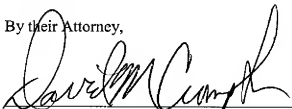
Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 8-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Bartels (US 5,927,047) in view of Dekker (US 5,755,084). Claims 8 and 9 have been amended to depend, either directly or indirectly, from allowed claim 25. Thus, the rejection is rendered moot. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

Hartmut Karl Sauer et al.

By their Attorney,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David M. Crompton", is written over a horizontal line.

David M. Crompton, Reg. No. 36,772
CROMPTON, SEAGER & TUFTE, LLC
1221 Nicollet Avenue, Suite 800
Minneapolis, MN 55403-2420
Telephone: (612) 677-9050
Facsimile: (612) 359-9349

Date: _____

11/20/08